

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 9, 2003**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on June 9, 2003 in Room 830, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

In absence of a quorum, President Jernigan called a meeting of the Committee of the Whole to order at 10:15 a.m., followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for the roll call:

President Jernigan  
Vice President Mariajimenez  
Treasurer Lesser  
Commissioner Cooperman  
Commissioner Duba

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jernigan reported the following:

- She discussed Senate Bill 817 and Assembly Bill 1051.
- She thanked Vice President Mariajimenez for her leadership on Women in Action Lobby Day in Sacramento.
- She attended the Millennium Momentum Foundation on May 28.
- She attended the Justice, Unity, Generosity, and Service, International, Inc. Awards Luncheon at the Westin LAX Hotel on June 7.
- She read a thank you letter to the Commission from The Sunshine Mission/Casa de Rosas for a donation that given in the late June Dunbar's name.
- She read a thank you letter to the Commission from Candy D'Amato's daughter, Tracy Nini, for the Commission's contribution to her mother's memorial fund.

(Commissioner Morgan joined the meeting.)

### **STAFF REPORT**

Staff reported the following:

On May 20, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to extend the Office of Women's Health Cervical Cancer Education Initiative beginning June 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. The funds will be appropriated from the original grant from the California Endowment at no net cost to the County.

**PRESENTATION ON THE STATE OF DNA EVIDENCE IN RAPE CASES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY BY DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY LISA KAHN**

Ms. Kahn, Deputy-In-Charge, Forensic Sciences Section, stated that the use of DNA evidence can revolutionize the way crime is fought. More specifically, she focused on the handling of rape kits in the process of analyzing DNA for identification of rapists in Los Angeles County.

- She emphasized the importance of advocating for DNA testing to be mandated to take place within hours or days of the offense.
- In California, it can take up to several months before DNA evidence is analyzed. For example, the DNA kit of a victim who was raped in June 2001 was not analyzed until November 2001. Meanwhile, the rapist committed four more rapes in the 6-month time frame.
- The United Kingdom's Forensics Science Services reports 300 to 500 matches per week using their Offender DNA Database in conjunction with crime scene evidence. The UK's weekly DNA matches range from car and home burglaries to rapes and homicides.
- The Los Angeles Police Department has an inventory of 1,587 unsolved sexual assault cases, while the Los Angeles Sheriff Department has an inventory of 949 unsolved sexual assault cases. However, these numbers are thought to be conservative estimates of an actual number that is much higher.
- Both of the above mentioned law enforcement agencies have more than 400 DNA rape kits to analyze before the statute of limitations runs out in September 2003. A shortage of DNA criminalists in both agencies, coupled with the reality that criminalists can only complete 2 or 3 cases per month, only worsens the backlog thus leaving it up to question what will become of the untested kits.
- For this process to adequately bring rapists to justice, she stated, California must have two things: An all-felon database and adequate crime lab resources.
- She encouraged Commissioners to support legislation advocating an all-felon database in California.

(Commissioner Carpenter-McMillan joined the meeting.)

**REPORT ON WOMEN IN ACTION LOBBY DAY IN SACRAMENTO ON MAY 15, 2003**

Vice President Mariajimenez thanked the Commission delegation and staff for their support on Women in Action Lobby Day on May 15 in Sacramento.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Legislative Committee**

Vice President Mariajimenez requested to table today's Legislative Committee meeting due to the absence of Committee members.

### **Media/Public Relations Committee**

Commissioner Morgan reported that she is finished with the first of three press releases for the 5K Run/Walk.

### **5K Run/Walk Subcommittee**

Commissioner Duba reported that the Commission received a \$1,500 donation from Stanley Morgan; an anonymous donation of \$1,000; the California Wellness Foundation donated \$1,000; a check for \$999.99 from the 99¢ Store chain, along with 10 store gift certificates; 1,000 sample size bottles of Prell shampoo; and 20 meal certificates from In & Out Burger.

The next 5K Run/Walk Subcommittee meeting is June 23 at 12:30 p.m. in Room 830 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was none.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President Jernigan announced the opening of a Cancer Detection Center at 123 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles.

Treasurer Lesser announced she will attend Town Hall Los Angeles featuring guest speaker National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice on Thursday, June 12, 2003.

## **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

There were none.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

Ruth Jernigan, President  
Yvonne Maria Jimenez, Vice President  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Charlotte Lesser  
Susan Carpenter-McMillan  
Reiko Duba  
Lila Morgan

### **EXCUSED**

Yolanda Becerra-Jones  
Ruth Creary, Ph.D.  
Janet Mummey, Esq.  
Olivia Rodriguez

### **UNEXCUSED**

Sophia Esparza  
Barbara Perkins  
Brenda C. Smith, M.D.

### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office  
Jim Corbett, Executive Office  
Twila Kerr, Executive Office  
Cheryl Diaz, Executive Office  
Audra Galang, Executive Office  
Barbara Petite, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

### **GUESTS**

Rose Borja  
Genevieve Clavreul, Solutions Outside the Box